

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for preparing a disk drive of a computing system for test in ~~plural~~ a plurality of phases, each phase comprising ~~the steps of~~:

a) recording a plurality of test files of varying sizes to a partition of the disk drive in a recording sequence until ~~the~~ a free space of the partition is less than a predetermined value; and thereafter

b) deleting a portion of the plurality of test files from the partition in a deletion sequence, the deletion sequence being different from both the recording sequence and a reverse of the recording sequence.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein a processing phase comprises step a) and step b), the method further comprising the steps of:

c) measuring a performance parameter of the disk drive prior to the processing phase; and

d) measuring the performance parameter after the processing phase.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising the steps of:

e) performing a second processing phase after step d); and

- f) measuring the performance parameter after the second processing phase.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the recording step a) comprises ~~the steps of~~:

- a1) generating a random number uniformly distributed between a minimum file size and a maximum file size;
- a2) creating a next test file;
- a3) writing the random number bytes to the next test file; and
- a4) repeating steps a1)–a3) until the free space of the partition is less than the random number; and
- a5) repeating steps a1)–a4) a predetermined number of times.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the predetermined number of times equals ten.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the deleting step b) comprises the steps of:

- b1) generating a second random number between one and a maximum number of test files;
- b2) deleting the second random number test file when it exists; and
- b3) repeating steps b1)–b2) a second predetermined number of times.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the second predetermined number of times is equal to one-half the number of test files present prior to the deleting step b).

8. (Currently amended) A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium carrying program codes executable by a computer for preparing a disk drive of a computing system for test, the computer program product comprising:

program codes for recording a plurality of test files of varying sizes to a partition of the disk drive in a recording sequence until a free space of the partition is less than a predetermined value; and

program codes for deleting a portion of the plurality of test files from the partition in a deletion sequence, the deletion sequence being different from both the recording sequence and a reverse of the recording sequence.